



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: 2/15/02, 8:00 a.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: July 2000 through January 2001
Nature of Call: Passing 391 Bad Checks / \$65,080.55
Location of Call: Granite Bay/Roseville/Rocklin/Sacramento
Case Number: SO 01-12125
Released by: Sgt. John Addoms (530) 889-7856

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Karena Burnett-Burrus, a 26-year-old woman recently extradited from the State of Washington, will be arraigned in the Placer County Superior Court today at 1:30 p.m. on charges of burglary, forgery, passing non-sufficient funds checks, passing fictitious checks, displaying forged identification, and false personation of another.

The charges stem from an investigation that began in June of 2001 when Sheriff's investigators were contacted by the District Attorney's Check Restitution Program that several bad check reports had been filed and appeared to be fraudulent.

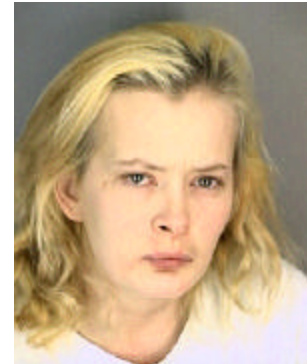
After obtaining search warrants for bank records, obtaining transaction data with several retail stores, and conducting interviews, detectives with the aid of the Sheriff's Crime Analysis Unit were able to identify the criminal activity of Karena Burnett-Burrus. Investigators concluded that between July of 2000 and January of 2001, Burrus opened 3 checking accounts using her own name or variations of her name and various social security numbers. Further, she obtained a Nevada Identification in the name Natasha Loring, obtained a mailbox in that name, and opened 3 separate checking accounts in that name. In each case, Burrus made only the initial minimal deposits and then when the checks arrived in the mail, she proceeded to write thousands of dollars worth of checks.

Investigators were able to identify 391 checks written by Burrus in Granite Bay, Roseville Rocklin, Citrus Heights, and Sacramento for a total of over \$65,000.

At the time the crime was occurring, Burrus was living in Rancho Cordova but moved to the State of Washington prior to the crimes being reported.

In January of 2002, the Placer County District Attorney's Office filed a criminal complaint against Karena Burnett-Burrus and Judge Kearney issued a warrant for her arrest. On January 17th, Burrus was arrested by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department in the State of Washington on the Placer County warrant. On 2/4/2002, she waived extradition and was transported back to Placer County on 2/13/02 where she remains in custody pending \$20,000 bail.

A photo of Karena Burnett-Burrus will be available on the Sheriff's website.



**Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's
Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**